



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

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MASSACHUSETTS OCEAN MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE **RELEASES DRAFT PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Public comment next step in effort to update state ocean policies

The Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force today released draft principles and preliminary recommendations that will serve as a basis for reforming the Bay State's ocean management policies and regulations in the future. The Task Force will hold public meetings to review the principles and recommendations over the next two weeks.

"Today, the Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force has taken a significant step in taming the new 'wild west' of development—our oceans," said Environmental Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder. "As a Commonwealth, we are now well-positioned to take the next step in making sure that coastal waters held in trust for the people are properly managed for years to come."

Among its fifteen recommendations, the Task Force encouraged the eventual passage of a Comprehensive Ocean Resource Management Act that would provide legal authority to the state to develop ocean management plans. This would allow the state, in consultation with cities, towns, and a newly created oceans coordinating council, new authority to designate certain areas within state waters for specific purposes such as industrial use, fisheries habitat preservation, or natural resource conservation.

"The Ocean Management Task Force is made up of a diverse group with strong opinions who have worked extremely hard over the past six months to form a consensus around these recommendations," said Task Force Chair Susan Tierney. "I hope the public will be pleased with the effort we have made to consider all sides of the issue and the progress the state has the potential to make in the area of ocean management. Also, if there is something we are missing these public meetings are an opportunity for the public to tell us that."

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A central part of Governor Mitt Romney's Ocean Management Initiative, the Ocean Management Task Force was formed by Secretary Ellen Herzfelder in June 2003. Principal Task Force objectives include: developing guiding principles for the use of state waters and ocean resources; examining state coastal policies and the related legal framework; determining data requirements for managing state waters; and examining the organization and governance over state waters to ensure that statewide interests are met.

The Task Force will review the public comments received at the meetings listed below and release a final report to Secretary Herzfelder in February 2004. The full list of preliminary recommendations will be available online by Noon on Friday, December 5 at www.state.ma.us/czm/oceanmgtinitiative.htm.

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

- Boston, December 10, 3 pm – 5 pm, John Joseph Moakley Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Way, Boston
- Worcester, December 10, 7 pm – 9 pm, Broad Meadow Brook, 414 Massasoit Road, Worcester
- Yarmouth, December 11, 7 pm – 9 pm, Yarmouth Council on Aging, 528 Forest Road, Yarmouth
- Gloucester, December 15, 7 pm – 9 pm, Cape Ann Historical Association, 27 Pleasant Street, Gloucester
- New Bedford, December 15, 7 pm – 9 pm, New Bedford Public Library, 613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

CHAIR

Susan F. Tierney, Managing Principal, Analysis Group Inc., and former Assistant Secretary of Policy for the US Department of Energy, former Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs, and former Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities

STATE OFFICIALS

Paul Diodati, Director, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Jim Hunt, Assistant Secretary for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act Unit)

David O'Connor, Commissioner, Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources

Robbin Peach, Executive Director, Massachusetts Environmental Trust

Tom Skinner, Director, Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management and Assistant Secretary of Coastal and Marine Resources for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

LOCAL OFFICIALS

Mayor John Bell, City of Gloucester, represented by **Dale Brown** (Community Development Director for the City of Gloucester)

Timothy Smith, Town Administrator, Town of Wellfleet

Mayor Fred Kalisz, City of New Bedford, represented by **John Simpson**, Executive Director of the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission

Mayor Thomas Menino, City of Boston, represented by **Richard McGuinness** from the Boston Redevelopment Authority

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Bill Adler, Executive Director, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association and Member, Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission

Priscilla Brooks, Director of the Marine Resources Project and Senior Economist, Conservation Law Foundation and Member, Gulf of Maine Council

Jack Clarke, Director of Advocacy, Massachusetts Audubon Society

Tom Cox, President, Massachusetts Marine Trades Association, and co-owner, Constitution Marina

"Rip" Cunningham, Editor In Chief and Publisher, Saltwater Sportsmen Magazine, and Member, Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission

Michael Egan, Founder, Carruth Capital, LLC

Mike Leone, Port Director for the Massachusetts Port Authority, and Chair, American Association of Port Authorities

Vivien Li, Executive Director, The Boston Harbor Association

James J. McCarthy, Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography and former Director, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University

Judith McDowell, Senior Scientist, Director of the Woods Hole Sea Grant Program and Associate Dean at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

E. Randolph ("Randy") Tucker, Partner, Piper Rudnick

Greg Watson, Vice President, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative

Larry Wheatley, Attorney

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Elmer P. Daneberger III, Chief, Engineering and Operations Division of the Minerals Management Service of the US Department of the Interior

Eldon Hout, Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, an office within National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Ocean Service

Paul Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

Colonel Thomas L. Koning, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, represented by **Christine Godfrey** (Chief of the Regulatory Division, New England District, US Army Corps of Engineers)

Pat Kurkul, Northeast Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)

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Craig McDonald, Superintendent of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Captain Brian Selarno, U.S. Coast Guard, represented by **Thomas Godfrey** (Deputy Chief, Planning Department at the US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, Boston). Bob Varney, Regional Administrator (New England Region), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, represented by **Timothy Timmermann** (environmental scientist in the New England EPA's Office of Environmental Review)

STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Representative Susan Gifford, 2nd Plymouth District

Representative Anthony J. Verga, serving Gloucester, Rockport, and Essex; member, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; former Executive Director of the Gloucester Fisheries Commission.

Senator Robert O'Leary, serving the Cape & Islands; former member, Cape Cod Commission and the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Council

Senator Bruce Tarr, representing the First Essex and Middlesex District

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Senator John Kerry

Congressman Michael E. Capuano

Congressman William Delahunt

Congressman Barney Frank

Congressman Stephen F. Lynch

Congressman Edward J. Markey

Congressman James McGovern

Congressman Marty Meehan

Congressman Richard E. Neal

Congressman John Olver

Congressman John F. Tierney

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